

Approved

Rockville Environment Commission Minutes of the Meeting of Thursday, August 6, 2015

Diamondback Conference Room, City Hall,
111 Maryland Avenue, Rockville, Maryland

Attendance

Commissioners Present: John Becker, Steve Cardon, Amanda Matheny, Clark Reed, Lea Rosenbohm, Steve Sprague, Helen Triolo, and Alicia Hosmer (via phone during the FTPO discussion)

Commissioners Absent: Scott Clausen

City Staff: Erica Shingara (Environmental Management), Wayne Noll (Forestry), and Susan Swift (Community Planning and Development Services)

Guests: none

Meeting Commencement and Introductions

The meeting convened at 7:02 pm by Chair Reed.

Meeting Agenda Review and Revision

No changes were made to the agenda.

Approval of Meeting Minutes

Commissioner Becker moved and Commissioner Triolo seconded a motion to approve the July 3, 2015 meeting minutes. The motion passed 6-0-1 with Commissioner Matheny abstaining due to absence at the July meeting and Commissioner Hosmer absent for the vote.

Proposed Revisions to Forest and Tree Preservation Ordinance (FTPO)

City Forester Wayne Noll briefed the Commission on the Forestry and Tree Protection Ordinance. Topics included a background on the FTPO and when it applies, key differences between Rockville's program and State law, revisions adopted in 2007, and a description of proposed 2015 revisions. CPDS Director Susan Swift emphasized the predominance of redevelopment projects in Rockville and the different planting requirements under the FTPO (reforestation, afforestation, minimum tree cover, and significant tree replacement). The Commission posed questions and there was a general discussion on the following items:

- The Mayor and Council recent approval of an amendment increasing the disturbance threshold for previously developed 80 acre + sites from 25% to 50% (per Montgomery College's request).
- Proposed reduction of fee-in-lieu for government projects from \$5 to \$1.15 per square foot.
- Proposed incorporation of the State exemption for stormwater management/stream restoration projects.
- Proposed simplified tree replacement requirements for individual single-family lots to align with the Zoning Ordinance.
- Proposed modification of the 5-year warranty and maintenance period.

- Other proposed revisions identified by the Site Plan Improvement Group, such as establishing an exemption and a simplified process for Natural Resource Inventory/Forest Stand Delineation Plans for minor projects with no or minimum impacts to resources and establishing a 70% minimum planting requirement for dense zones, such as Rockville Town Center and Rockville Pike.
- Future action on the proposed FTPO amendments is not yet scheduled. Given that the next Mayor and Council meeting is September 21, the Commission did not take action on any of the proposed revisions and will schedule discussion at the September meeting.
- **Action Item:** The Commission identified the following items for the September 3rd agenda: Discussion on Proposed Revisions to the FTPO, Watts Branch Watershed Study, Commission Budget, and Backyard Habitats. Committees were reminded to bring budget discussion materials to the next meeting.

Committee Reports

- Commissioner Matheny indicated that Montgomery County's fall community service week is in October and the Commission typically plans the Maryvale Stream Cleanup on the Saturday to coincide with this event. The Commission expressed interest in hosting a cleanup similar to last year.
- **Action Item:** The Commission will start making plans to host the Maryvale Stream Cleanup on October 24 from 10:30 a.m. to noon.
- Due to time constraints, Commissioner Cardon moved and Commissioner Rosenbohm seconded to table the committee reports. The motion passed unanimously.

Environmental Management Report

- Erica Shingara requested the Commission review the upcoming items identified in the agenda:
 - Final edits to the Watts Branch Watershed Assessment were posted online and circulated to the Commission for review/endorsement at the September meeting.
 - Volunteer Appreciation Event at the Glenview Mansion - 9/10
 - Montgomery County Green Bank Forum - 9/16 at the F. Scott Fitzgerald Theatre.
 - Montgomery County Service Day - 10/24

New Business

The Commission responded favorably to Commissioner Cardon's suggestion to nominate Jim Farrelly for a posthumous Environmental Excellence Award in recognition of his community environmental stewardship.

- **Action Item:** Commissioner Cardon volunteered to submit the nomination for future consideration.

Adjourn

The Commission adjourned by acclamation at 8:17 p.m.

Next Commission Meeting

The next Commission meeting is tentatively scheduled for **Thursday, September 3, 2015 at 7:00 pm** in the **Diamondback Conference Room at the Rockville City Hall, 111 Maryland Avenue, Rockville Maryland 20850-2321**. The public is invited to attend.